

The Freeholders of the County of Leicester have already proved, and are ready to prove these illegal and violent Proceedings in the late Election of Knights for the said County: The Competitors being,

1275

John Lord Roos, Lord Lieutenant of the said County.

Bennet Lord Sherrard.

Sir John Hartopp, Baronet.

1. **T**hat the High Sheriff, with the Lord *Beaumont*, and a body of Horse, made a violent Assault upon the Freeholders who declared for Sir *John Hartopp*, and trampled upon, and beat them in the Field near *Leicester*; called the *Row Dikes*; to which the Court was adjourned on purpose to affront, scatter, and discourage them from voting for Sir *John Hartopp*.

2. That upon the view in the said Field near *Leicester*, more of the said Freeholders were for Sir *John Hartopp*, than for the said Lords, by many hundreds, and therefore the Lords demanded the Poll, as the High Sheriff himself then signified to Sir *John Hartopp*.

3. That the Sheriff made several undue Adjournments of the Poll at *Leicester*, to hinder and tire out the Freeholders that voted for the said Sir *John Hartopp*, and polled above 500 for each of the said Lords at *Leicester*, and but 138 for Sir *John Hartopp*, in two days time; and by that means forced Sir *John Hartopp* to consent to adjourn into the Hundreds, the Sheriff appointing the places backwards and forwards, cross the Country, without the consent of the Freeholders, or Sir *John Hartopp*, the better to gain time to divert and terrify the Freeholders from giving their Votes freely, and to weary them out: And at *Harborom* the Sheriff broke up the Poll in a Tumult, when many Freeholders were ready to Poll for Sir *John Hartopp*.

4. That during the Poll, as well at *Leicester* as in all the Hundreds, the Doors were shut against those Freeholders that voted for Sir *John Hartopp*, and many of them beaten, abused, reviled, and imprisoned, only for declaring for him; and many others haled away, and the Oaths of *Allegiance* and *Supremacy* tendred and administered to them, some before, and some after they were admitted to Poll; and some imprisoned and never polled at all, although they were neither Papists, nor reputed Papists.

5. That in administering the said Oaths, several words were added, not contained in the Statutes, while the Deponents hand was upon the Book.

6. That several Freeholders, for insisting that the said Oaths were not legally tendred to them in the said County Court, were imprisoned, without Bail, for many days.

7. That several Persons that knew the Freeholders of the Country, and were appointed on the part of Sir *John Hartopp* to over-see the Poll, were violently haled away, beaten, and imprisoned, and Bail refused for them till the Poll was over, to the end that the Lords might have opportunity to Poll those that were no Freeholders.

8. That during the whole Poll, both at *Leicester* and in the Hundreds, both the High Sheriff, Under-Sheriff, the Lord *Ferrars*, the Lord *Beaumont*, Col. *Lister*, Mr. *Cotton*, Mr. *Stephens*, Register of the Ecclesiastical Court, and other Agents for the said Lords, did threaten, beat, revile, and abuse the Freeholders that came to Poll for Sir *John Hartopp*; threatening some, that their Charge in the *Militia* should be increased; others, with Excommunications, and to remember them at the Sessions, and to put them in the Black Book, whereby to divert and hinder them from giving their Votes for Sir *John Hartopp*; and many hundreds were thereby diverted, to the great violation of the freedom of Elections to Parliament.

9. That one *Ward*, a Parson, a great Agent for the Lords, began a Tumult in *Harborom*, after which one *Allen* that came to vote for Sir *John Hartopp*, was beaten and wounded, so that he was found dead next day in the Lords Inn: And that the Lords, and their Agents, or some of them, abetted and encouraged the said Disorder, and rewarded the said *Ward* with Money, and promises of Preferment.

10. That during the whole Poll, none that had voted for the said Lords had the Oaths of *Allegiance* or *Supremacy* tendred to them, or were imprisoned, or in the least discouraged, but were highly encouraged by the Sheriff, the Lords, and their Agents.